

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 29, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 21, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 781

Introduced by Assembly Member Jeffries

February 26, 2009

An act to add Sections 7294.1 and 7299.7 to the Government Code, relating to bilingual services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 781, as amended, Jeffries. Bilingual services.

Existing law, the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act, requires every state agency, except as specified, that is directly involved in the furnishing of information or the rendering of services to the public whereby contact is made with a substantial number of non-English speaking people, to employ a sufficient number of qualified bilingual persons in public contact positions. Existing law also requires that any materials explaining services available to the public be translated into any non-English language spoken by a substantial number of the public served by the agency. Existing law imposes specified reporting requirements related to these provisions.

This bill would prohibit a state or local agency from imposing or implementing an action or decision pursuant to these provisions as a pretext for discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, or other unlawful discrimination in employment, including any requirement that an employee be bilingual, as specified. The bill would also require that all information and reports required by the provisions of existing law

described above shall be public information unless otherwise restricted by law.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 7294.1 is added to the Government Code,
2 to read:

3 7294.1. No state or local agency shall impose or implement an
4 action or decision pursuant to this chapter, *including any*
5 *requirement that an employee be bilingual*, as a pretext for
6 discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, or other
7 unlawful discrimination in employment, ~~including any requirement~~
8 ~~that an employee be bilingual~~. An action or decision taken for the
9 purpose of fulfilling the requirements of this chapter shall not be
10 considered a pretext for discrimination.

11 SEC. 2. Section 7299.7 is added to the Government Code, to
12 read:

13 7299.7. All information and reports required by this chapter
14 shall be public information unless otherwise restricted by law.